[5th March 1926

depressed classes living in the South? May I know the reason for not appointing almost all the members of the depressed classes on that Advisory Committee?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have already stated that the Government thought that it was not necessary."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I ask whether he will kindly appoint all the members from among the depressed classes at least now?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order. That is a suggestion for action."

*Enquiries into the alleged interference with the religious rites of depressed classes of Kuditini village.*

* 1541 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: With reference to question No. 1042 answered at the meeting of the Council on the 15th December 1925 regarding interference with the religious rites of depressed classes of Kuditini village, will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether the district authorities have completed the inquiries into the matter and if so, with what results?

*A.*—Yes. A licence has been issued to the Madigas to take their procession subject to certain conditions prescribed in the interests of public peace.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the same kind of licence is being issued in the case of non-depressed classes while they perform their religious rites?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"I am unable to answer that question off-hand. I want notice."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know the reason why a licence is necessary when the depressed classes members want to perform their religious rites?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"To prevent a breach of the peace."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether they had any dangerous weapons with them?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"It is not necessary that they should have dangerous weapons."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know why they were restricted to pass through only certain places and why they were not allowed to pass through public pathways?"

The hon. Khan Bahadur MUHAMMAD USMAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"That is entirely left to the district authorities."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"It is cross-examination. The hon. Member must realise that we are not a Court of Law."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"In order to elicit information I put that question. In fact I am not a lawyer to cross-examine the hon. Member in charge of the portfolio."

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member would do very well as a lawyer." (Laughter.)